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Wokini Initiative: The New Beginnings Newsletter

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The New Beginnings Newsletter, May 2021

Wokini Initiative

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THE NEW BEGINNINGS NEWSLETTER



SOUTH DAKOTA
STATE UNIVERSITY

**WOKINI
INITIATIVE**
A NEW BEGINNING
South Dakota State University®



Senior Sierra Smith - Spring Graduation 2021

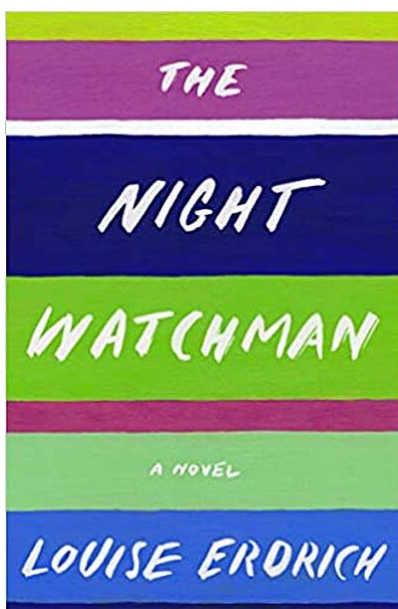
Graduating senior, Sierra Smith, served as the keynote speaker for the Spring 2021 graduation ceremony at the American Indian Student Center, and as she prepares for a career in nursing after her time at SDSU, Smith shares her hopes for future American Indian students at SDSU. Smith says, "I'm excited for our Native community to keep growing, and I'm looking forward to seeing where we are at around five years from now."

Full Student Spotlight

Lakota Word of the Month

wóígluthókeča (self-transformation) Metamorphosis

Book of the Month

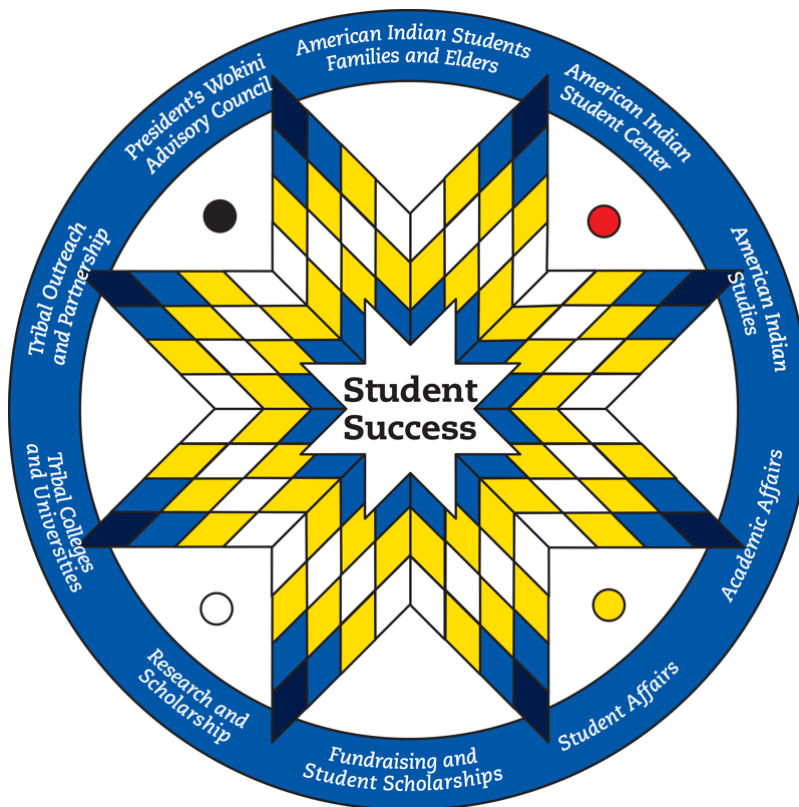


The Night Watchman

"Based on the extraordinary life of National Book Award-winning author Louise Erdrich's grandfather who worked as a night watchman and carried the fight against Native dispossession from rural North Dakota all the way to Washington, D.C., this powerful novel explores themes of love and death with lightness and gravity and unfolds with the elegant prose, sly humor, and depth of feeling of a master craftsman." - HarperCollins Publishers

Upcoming Events @ AISC

American Indian Student Center Ribbon Cutting: October 8 - 9, AISC



Open Positions

Director of Wokini and Tribal Relations

South Dakota State University (SDSU) is searching for a dynamic, innovative, and collaborative leader to fill the role of Director of Wokini and Tribal Relations. The Wokini Initiative, translated to “new beginnings” in Lakota, is SDSU’s collaborative and holistic framework to support the nine tribal nations in South Dakota emphasizing American Indian student success and tribal nation building. The next Director will embrace the core values of SDSU as a people-centered leader, valuing creativity, diversity, integrity, and excellence. This individual will have strong knowledge of American Indian and indigenous culture with emphasis on the nine tribal nations in South Dakota. Through strong partnership with the leadership of the American Indian Student Center and American Indian Studies Program, the Director will build on the solid foundation of the Wokini Initiative to take SDSU’s efforts to a new level, working collaboratively across the University to serve American Indian people at the University, in our state, and throughout the region and nation.

For more information on this position and to apply, click [here](#).

Program Coordinator

South Dakota State University (SDSU) is currently seeking a highly motivated professional to lead a grant-funded innovative project. South Dakota State University is the state's largest, most comprehensive university with more than 200 programs and an enrollment of approximately 12,000 students. The successful candidate will coordinate the grant team in creation of an online interactive curriculum for staff and faculty professional development that focuses on Lakota/Dakota/Nakota cultural competency and implementation of culturally responsive practices at SDSU. The Program Coordinator will travel and work effectively with cultural consultants and manage project tasks and objectives in accordance with the project's fast-paced timeline. This is a 12-month, full-time, benefit-eligible, grant-funded position. This position is supervised by the Director of Wokini and Tribal Relations.

For more information on this position and to apply, click [here](#).

College Access Liaison

South Dakota State University (SDSU) is currently seeking a self-motivated and organized College Access Liaison to lead a grant-funded innovative project based out of Lower Brule Community College (LBCC) in Lower Brule, South Dakota (SD). The successful applicant will coordinate the grant program entitled Igluwiyea (ee – Glue – wee – yea – yah), meaning “Prepare oneself.” The position will facilitate the Igluwiyea program in collaboration with project partners to provide outreach to local tribal high schools and LBCC students to increase student knowledge of college preparation programs, tribal career opportunities, postsecondary and advanced degree options, and college financing. The liaison position will create sustainable resources and provide student instruction on access and pathways to higher education and degree attainment for American Indian students. The liaison will travel to and work effectively with high school administrators, teachers and manage project tasks and objectives in accordance with the project's fast-paced timeline. This is a 12 month, full-time, benefit-eligible, grant-funded position.

For more information on this position and to apply, click [here](#).



